



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL MOVIE PIRACY CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that two El Paso men have entered guilty pleas in connection with a scheme to distribute over 5,000 illegally copied movie DVDs.

Appearing before United States District Judge David Briones on Monday, Gerardo Garay pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit copyright infringement. Garay admitted that between September 2005 and March 10, 2006, he illegally reproduced copies of more than 300 movies—some of which he downloaded from the internet—for Joseph Ray Rodriguez. Movie titles included “Chicken Little,” “Hostel,” “Jarhead,” “Hitch,” “Man on Fire” “Sahara,” “Fantastic Four,” “Saw II,” “Lord of War,” “The Exorcism of Emily Rose,” “King Kong,” “The Chronicles of Narnia” and others. Garay further admitted that he copied “King Kong” and “The Chronicles of Narnia” before they were released to the public on DVD. On average, Garay received \$4 per copy from Rodriguez.

On June 30, 2006, Rodriguez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit copyright infringement and two substantive copyright infringement counts. Rodriguez admitted to conspiring with Garay to illegally reproduce various movies then sell the copies to an individual he later learned was an undercover FBI agent for between \$5 and \$7 per copy. He also admitted to selling the illegal copies at area swap meets and local flea markets.

On March 10, 2006, FBI agents executed a search warrant at both defendants’ residences. During the course of these searches, agents seized computers, hard drives, a re-writable compact disc drive, a commercial grade DVD disc duplicator, printers, wireless router, a cable modem, computer software for copying DVD’s, print cartridges and a spool of blank DVD’s.

Rodriguez and Garay remain on bond pending sentencing scheduled for late September. Both defendants face up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr.

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